

The term "*hedgehog* therapeutic" refers to various forms of *hedgehog* polypeptides, as well as peptidomimetics, which are neuroprotective for neuronal cells, and in particular, enhance the survival of neurons under ischemic and/or hypoxic conditions. These include naturally occurring forms of *hedgehog* proteins, as well as modified or mutant forms generated by molecular biological techniques, chemical synthesis, etc. While in preferred embodiments the *hedgehog* polypeptide is derived from a vertebrate homolog, cross-species activity reported in the literature supports the use of *hedgehog* polypeptides from invertebrate organisms as well. Naturally and non-naturally occurring *hedgehog* therapeutics referred to herein as "agonists" mimic or potentiate (collectively "agonize") the effects of a naturally occurring *hedgehog* protein

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*The paragraphs presented above incorporate changes as indicated by the marked-up versions below.*

One aspect of the present application relates to a method for limiting damage to neuronal cells by ischemic or hypoxic ~~epoxic~~ conditions, e.g., such as may be manifest by a reduction in brain infarct volume, by administering to an individual a *hedgehog* therapeutic or *ptc* therapeutic in an amount effective for reducing cerebral infarct volume relative to the absence of administration of the *hedgehog* therapeutic or *pvc* therapeutic.

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